

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
NSC-05 /064 W
-----091824Z 088609 /41

R 091441Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2102
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO JCS/J37 AND J5
MCEB WASHDC
DCA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1308

SECDEF FOR ODTACCS (SYSTEMS)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NATO
SUBJECT: FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE NATO-WIDE COMMUNICATION
SYSTEM

SUMMARY: THE FRENCH HAVE INFORMED SYG LUNS OF THEIR
DESIRE TO JOIN THE NATO-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. RE-
PORTEDLY, THE SYG HAS WELCOMED THIS INTENT AND SUGGESTED
FURTHER THAT FRANCE PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT SECURE VOICE
PROGRAM (PSVP). SINCE BOTH OF THESE WILL BE PART OF NICS,
FRANCE ALSO PROBABLY WILL BE EXPECTED TO SHARE IN THE
COST OF NICS. FYI: FRANCE ASKS THAT ITS PROPOSED PARTI-
CIPATION IN NATO-WIDE BE KEPT STRICTLY IN NATO CHANNELS.
END FYI. END SUMMARY.

1. THERE FOLLOWS BELOW THE TEXT OF AN UNOFFICIAL TRANS-
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LATION OF A LETTER FROM THE FRENCH PERMREP (TINE) TO SYG
LUNS ANNOUNCING FRANCE'S INTENTION TO JOIN THE NATO-
WIDE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM.

BEGIN TEXT:

I HAVE THE HONOR OF INFORMING YOU THAT FRANCE
HAS DECIDED TO JOIN THE NATO-WIDE SYSTEM.
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS DECISION GIVES RISE
TO A CERTAIN NUMBER OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE STUDIED BY SPECIALISTS. I WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD INFORM ME OF THE STEPS YOU PLAN TO TAKE IN THIS REGARD.

I ALSO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT FRANCE ASKS THAT INFORMATION CONCERNING ITS PARTICIPATION IN NATO-WIDE NOT BE DISCLOSED TO ANYONE OUTSIDE OF NATO CHANNELS. I THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR ANY INSTRUCTIONS YOU MAY DEEM ADVISABLE TO GIVE IN THIS RESPECT.

I AM SENDING A COPY OF THIS LETTER TO ALL DELEGATIONS.

(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.)

/S/ JACQUES TINE

END TEXT

2. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE TEXT OF SYG LUNS' REPLY TO THE FRENCH, WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE WELCOMED THE FRENCH DECISION AND ADVISED THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED THE NATO INTERNATIONAL STAFF (NIS) TO DEVELOP DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS ON FUNDING AND CONNECTION. FURTHER, HE ALSO INVITED FRANC TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT SECURE VOICE PROGRAM (PSVP). FYI: BOTH NATO-WIDE AND PSVP WILL BE PART OF THE NICS. END FYI.

3. STAFF OFFICERS IN THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE, NIS BELIEVE THAT, IF IT JOINS NATO-WIDE, FRANCE SHOULD PAY THE COSTS OF CONNECTION AND PROVIDE ITS TERMINAL CONFIDENTIAL

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EQUIPMENT. NATO SHOULD NOT DEMAND PAYMENT OF A SHARE OF PAST SYSTEM COSTS BUT FRANCE SHOULD SHARE IN ALL FUTURE COSTS. FURTHER, INASMUCH AS NATO-WIDE WILL BE PART OF NICS, FRANCE WOULD BE EXPECTED TO SHARE IN SOME NICS COSTS ADDITIONAL TO THOSE SPECIFICALLY CHARGEABLE TO OPERATION OF NATO-WIDE. THESE STAFF OFFICERS ALSO BELIEVE THAT NATO SHOULD REQUIRE FRANCE TO PAY A SHARE OF PAST PSVP COSTS AS AN "ENTRY FEE" TO JOIN THAT PROGRAM NOW, AND OF COURSE TO SHARE IN FUTURE NICS COSTS.

4. COMMENT: WE EXPECT THAT SOME ALLIES ALSO WILL SHARE THE VIEWS OF THE NIS STAFF OFFICERS, INSISTING

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NSC-05 OC-06 CCO-00 /070 W

-----091833Z 089445 /40

R 091441Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2103
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO JCS/J37 AND J5
MCEB WASHDC
DCA WASHDC
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USNMR SHAPE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 1308

SECDEF FOR ODTACCS (SYSTEMS)

THAT FRANCE MUST PAY A FAIR SHARE OF PAST AND FUTURE
NICS COSTS AS THE PRICE OF CONNECTING TO THE NICS.
BASED ON PREVIOUS STATEMENTS FRENCH REPS HAVE MADE,
WE BELIEVE THAT FRANCE WILL BE WILLING TO PAY A SHARE;
THE QUESTION WILL BE WHAT CONSTITUTES A "FIAR SHARE."

5. THE DESIRE TO JOIN THE NATO-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS
SYSTEM IS CONSISTENT WITH RECENT FRENCH INTEREST IN
SELECTIVE, QUIET PARTICIPATION IN ALLIED ACTIVITIES
FROM WHICH FRANCE CAN DERIVE DIRECT BENEFIT. PARTI-
CIPATION IN THE NATO-WIDE SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE A
DIRECT, NATO-FUNDED TELETYPEWRITER CONNECTION BETWEEN
PARIS AND NATO HEADQUARTERS, WHICH ALSO CAN BE USED
BY PARIS TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER NATO CAPITALS
AND WITH THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE THREE MAJOR NATO
COMMANDS. FRENCH ENTRY INTO THE PSVP, SUGGESTED BY
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LUNS, WOULD PROVIDE SECURE VOICE COMMUNICATIONS NOT
ONLY WITH NATO HEADQUARTERS, THE OTHER NATO CAPITALS,
AND THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDS, BUT ALSO WITH MANY
MORE NATO MILITARY HEADQUARTERS. PARTICIPATION IN
THESE TWO SYSTEMS THUS WOULD CONSIDERABLY INCREASE
THE CAPABILITY FOR FRANCE TO COMMUNICATE THROUGHOUT
THE ALLIANCE. END COMMENT. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 30-Aug-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO01308
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703110/baaabccff.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 759901b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2962159
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE NATO-WIDE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM
TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NATO
To: STATE SECDEF MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/759901b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009